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TITLE: A Review of Asian & Pacific Islander Language HIV Prevention Materials

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ISSUE: Access to current, appropriate and accurate information is a key component to successful HIV prevention programs. This is especially challenging in Asian and Pacific Islander communities, which have over 40 distinct languages and cultures. The few materials that are available are often outdated and culturally inappropriate, with inaccurate information and inadequate translations. While Asian and Pacific Islander community-based organizations have the capacity to create better materials, funding limitations usually prohibits such costly and labor-intensive projects.

SETTING: HIV prevention program settings.

PROJECT: The Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum has convened 14 national panels to review currently available HIV prevention materials in Asian and Pacific Islander languages (*Chinese, Tagalog, Japanese, Korean, Samoan, Vietnamese, Thai, Cambodian, Lao, Hmong, Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati and Urdu*). These panels reviewed materials for appropriateness for the community and accuracy of the translation and information. The participants then created a recommendation list of currently available materials for specific Asian and Pacific Islander behavioral risk populations. Panel members also identified gaps currently missing in HIV prevention materials for their community and created initial concepts for future materials development. The participants also developed language specific glossaries of HIV terminology.

RESULTS: The final report of these 14 national language review panels includes recommended materials for each language, identification of gaps in materials, glossaries of HIV terminology in the 14 Asian and Pacific Islander languages and findings and recommendations for future materials developments. This report will be disseminated to the National Asian and Pacific Islander Consortium on AIDS and STDs, a national consortium of Asian and Pacific Islander CBOs engaged in HIV prevention. Through this review process, language specific working groups have formed to address some of the gaps identified by the panels. Development of new materials has also begun because of this project.

LESSONS LEARNED: Community-based organizations have the capacity to create materials that are most appropriate and effective for their communities; however, such projects are costly and time-consuming and thereby prohibitive for these generally small organizations. Our findings suggest a well-funded national collaborative effort to continue to develop and distribute appropriate Asian and Pacific Islander materials would be an effective strategy for all Asian and Pacific Islander communities to have access to current, appropriate and accurate information.

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